



US Fish and Wildlife Service's Role and Biocontrol

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Section 7 of the ESA

- ESA §7(a)(2) -- “Each Federal agency shall, in consultation with and with the assistance of the Secretary, insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out...is not likely to jeopardize...species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of [designated critical] habitat....”

Section 7

50 CFR § 402.14(a) & (b) -- “Each Federal agency shall review its actions at the earliest possible time to determine whether any action may affect listed species or critical habitat. If such a determination is made, formal consultation is required, except ...if...the Federal agency determines, with the written concurrence of the Director, that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any listed species or critical habitat.”

“Effects of the Action”

“Refers to the ***direct*** and ***indirect*** effects of an action on the species or critical habitat, together with the effects of other activities that are ***interrelated*** or ***interdependent*** with that action, that will be added to the environmental baseline.”

- *Indirect effects* are those that are caused by the proposed action and are later in time, but still are reasonably certain to occur.
- *Interrelated actions* are those that are part of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification.
- *Interdependent actions* are those that have no independent utility apart from the action under consideration.

Origin – 50 CFR §402.02

Additional information – see Handbook p. 4-25 through 4-29.

Update on the number of biological control agents pending Section 7 consultation at USFWS

1. *Uromyces salsolae*, a rust fungus, for biocontrol of Russian thistle
2. *Digitivalva delaireae*, stem boring moth, for biocontrol of Cape ivy
3. *Parafreutreta regalis*, a gall fly, for biocontrol of Cape ivy
4. *Hypena opulenta*, a leaf feeding moth, for biocontrol of Swallow-worts
5. *Aceria drabae*, a gall mite, for biocontrol of Hoary cress
6. *Rhinusa pilosa*, a weevil, for biocontrol of Yellow toadflax
7. *Lasioptera donacis*, a leaf mining fly, for biocontrol of Giant reed

Status Update

- *Uromyces salsolae*, a rust fungus, for biocontrol of Russian thistle
- Received: December 2012
- Review: In review by FWS
- Status: Being withdrawn by USDA-APHIS



<http://arizonacrop.org/weeds/russian%20thistle.html>

Status Update

- *Digitivalva delaireae*, stem boring moth, for biocontrol of Cape ivy
 - Received: March 2013
 - Review: Completed
 - Status: Concurrence Letter mailed December 2014



<http://www.oahuisc.org/cape-ivy/#jp-carousel-1265>

Status Update

- *Parafreutreta regalis*, a gall fly, for biocontrol of Cape ivy
 - Received: July 2013
 - Review: Completed
 - Status: Concurrence Letter mailed February 2015



<http://www.oahuisc.org/cape-ivy/#jp-carousel-1265>

Status Update

- *Hypena opulenta*, a leaf feeding moth, for biocontrol of Swallow-worts
 - Received: November 2013; Revised BA May 2015
 - Review: In review by FWS
 - Status: In review



<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/CAPS/pestInfo/pics/big/paleSwallowwortLeaf.jpg>

Status Update

- *Aceria drabae*, a gall mite, for biocontrol of Hoary cress
 - Received: December 2013
 - Review: In review by FWS
 - Status: In review



<http://www.idahoweedawareness.net/vfg/weedlist/hcress/hcress.html>

Status Update

- *Rhinusa pilosa*, a weevil, for biocontrol of Yellow toadflax
 - Received: August 2014
 - Review: In review by FWS
 - Status: In review



http://www.colostate.edu/Dept/CoopExt/Adams/weed/ytoadflax_id.htm

Status Update

- *Lasioptera donacis*, a leaf mining fly, for biocontrol of Giant reed
 - Received: August 2015
 - Review: In review by FWS
 - Status: In review



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Arundo_donax_CBMen_1.jpg

Progress and Next Steps

- FWS provided guidance on what is needed in a Biological Assessment (April 2015)
- Face-2-Face meeting (Sept 2015)
 - FWS proposed another Face-2-Face meeting in November regarding BAs and biocontrol
- Detailee
 - Point of Contact (Jeff Herod)
 - BCAW Biological Assessments: single point of contact
 - Work cross-program with FWS TAG Representative

Progress and Next Steps

- Internal Communication: FWS TAG representative will work with the Regional Section 7 and Recovery Coordinators to:
 - Facilitate a greater FWS field response to TAG Petitions and Test Plant Lists
 - FWS host webinars on biocontrol & nexus with the ESA (species and habitat) for TAG reps and BCAW researchers
 - TAG Manual Chapter 6 ESA - FWS staff working on Chapter 6 to update and provide examples
 - Early coordination - engage with USDA APHIS during BA development

Questions



BATWEEK
October 25-31

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